

EDUCATION CONNECTION

*Addressing educational issues that affect military children in
Navy Region Mid-Atlantic*



Issue 1, Spring 2010

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Online Tutoring Now Available for Navy Families



members and their dependents around the world can work with a certified, professional tutor online 24/7 to get help with homework, studying, test prep and more. Tutor.com offers help in more than 16 subjects from elementary math to physics.

Whenever a student needs help, they just enter their question and are connected to a tutor in an interactive online classroom and work one-to-one until their problem is solved. All tutors are screened, certified and background checked.

To access the program, you must login to your Navy Knowledge Online account and click on the REFERENCE tab. Look for the Tutor.com box in the right column, and click on the links "Kids and Teens" to get a tutor.

This program is provided by the Department of Defense. Authorized patrons include U.S. Active Duty military service members, U.S. military reservists, U.S. National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status and DoD civilians in a deployed status, and their dependents.

For more information including a video to see how Tutor.com works, visit www.tutor.com/navy or call 800-411-1970.



School Liaison Officer Highlight

*Featured SLO: Allison Foster, Ph.D.
Naval Station Norfolk/Naval Support Activity Norfolk*



Allison Foster has been a member of the Child and Youth Programs team as a School Liaison officer since June 2009. In a recent interview she shared a few words about herself so that our readers can get to know her better.

What professional positions have you held prior to joining NSN/NSA as the School Liaison Officer?

I have been a teacher of student's grades 1-12, a college professor, and a central office administrator for a school system.

How do you think your prior experiences have prepared you for this position as School Liaison Officer?

I grew up in an Air Force family so I understand moving as a way of life. In my multiple positions in education I have learned how school systems work. I have had experience working with No Child Left Behind and Federal educational rules and regulations.

What do you hope to accomplish as the NSN/NSA School Liaison Officer?

I want to be a great advocate for navy families and their educational concerns. I also want to bring information to the commanding officers at NSN and NSA and help them to be aware of educational news and issues that affect the children of the sailors that work for them. I would like to train faculties and staffers in the local area school systems in understanding the military lifestyle and its impact on students. Information is always the key to excellent communication.

What is something that not too many people may know about you that you would like to share today?

I believe that the more positive thoughts you put out to the universe the more good things you receive.

WEB RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Navy Knowledge Online (NKO)

www.nko.navy.mil

The Navy Knowledge Online Reference library offers children, teens and anyone seeking knowledge and entertainment a variety of resources at no cost! What's available:

- Downloadable iPOD, Kindle and Sony Reader audio books.
- Study with grade appropriate content in Math, Reading, Science and Writing.
- Student reference center (periodicals, journals, dictionary, encyclopedia, etc.)
- College Prep: CLEP practice tests, AP and GED prep, Family College Planning, Resume for College Applications.
- Learn a foreign language: Arabic, French, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese.
- International Children's Library: A collection of world literature.
- Children's Menu (ages 3 and up): Tumble Talking books, Tumble Readables, videos and more.





Fiscal Year 2011 Education Budget

Funding Success for Military Children in Education

President Obama's fiscal year 2011 education budget, released on February 1, signals a new direction for federal K-12 education policy with greater competitive funding, more flexibility, and a focus on the reforms likely to have the greatest impact on student success. All told, the budget includes \$49.7 billion for the Department's discretionary programs, an increase of \$3.5 billion over fiscal year 2010. The budget also includes \$173 billion in loans, grants, tax credits, and work-study programs to help students go to college. "This budget sends a very clear signal to the country that this president is serious about education," stated Secretary Duncan. "There are some very innovative proposals in this budget that come from across America." The proposed budget has a \$3 billion increase in competitive funding for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the largest increase ever requested for programs under the 1965 law, with \$1.35 billion to continue Race to the Top, \$500 million for Investing in Innovation, and more funding for school turn-arounds, charter schools, school safety, and programs that help prepare, retain, and reward effective teachers and leaders. The budget also reflects the President's broader commitment to providing more flexibility, reducing red tape, and holding Department programs accountable for results. In addition, the budget consolidates 38 ESEA programs into 11 funding streams and eliminates six other agency programs that either duplicate state or local programs or have simply not had a significant measurable impact. Among the increases:

- \$539 million for innovative teacher and leader reforms—such as performance pay—bringing the total to \$950 million, and \$269 million for teacher and leader recruitment and preparation, pushing the total to \$405 million;
- \$354 million for school turn-around (School Improvement) grants, bringing the total to \$900 million;
- \$250 million for special education students, pushing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants to states total to \$11.76 billion;
- \$200 million for Promise Neighborhoods grants;
- \$197 million for programs designed to promote a well-rounded education: comprehensive literacy, STEM, and other core subjects such as history and arts;
- \$81 million for expanding educational options, with a total of \$400 million for charter schools and other autonomous schools;
- \$50 million for English language learner (ELL) programs, bringing the total to \$800 million; and
- \$45 million for school safety and student health programs, pushing the total to \$410 million.

Moreover, when a reformed ESEA is enacted, the President will send Congress a budget amendment that requests up to an additional \$1 billion for ESEA programs. This money would provide new resources for awards to schools producing gains in student achievement, funding for expanded learning time, and funding to improve the quality of assessments. (Note: State tables, showing estimated allocations by Department program for FY 2011, are available online.)

Questions may be sent via email to AskArne@ed.gov, with the subject line "Budget Question." Please include your name, city, state, and organization represented (if applicable). Department staff will answer as many questions as possible during these calls.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COUNTS!

Spring Time Brings Testing Time Again, By Marian Leverette, M.A.T, M.Ed Regional School Liaison Officer

It's just about that time again when teachers and parents start to think of clever ways to prepare their students for testing. Whether it's a national or state Standards of Learning (SOL) test, an Advance Placement (AP) test or even SAT testing, a test is a test and test taking tips are always a useful way to ease the anxiety and help the students settle their nerves down so they may be able to perform to the best of their ability. Below is a list of tips that parents can use to support their children during this hectic testing season.

1. Make sure your child gets plenty of rest the night before the test.
2. On the morning of the test, your child needs to get up in plenty of time so he/she won't feel rushed.
3. Feed your child a good breakfast. Research shows that children do better on tests if they have had a good breakfast.
4. Do as much as you can to make your child feel comfortable. Try not to say things to make him/her feel more nervous.
5. Reassure your child that no matter the outcome of the test you will still love him/her. Encourage them to simply do their best.
6. Take an active role in your child's education throughout the school year. Let your child know you are interested in his/her learning by taking part in the entire process.
7. Find out all you can about the test. Ask questions of the teacher and/or principal. The more you and your child know about the test, the better prepared your child will be.
8. When the scores are sent to you, talk to your child's teacher and/or principal. This will help you to understand them more clearly.
9. Give your child praise even if he or she didn't do well on the test.

CALLING ALL EDUCATORS

Resources for Education Professionals

New Toolkit Launched!!

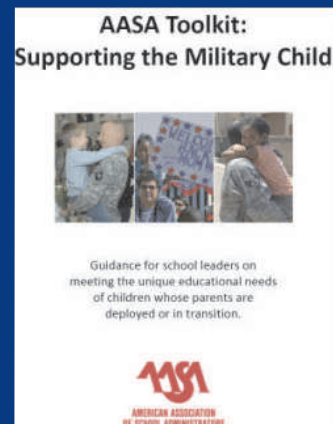
The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) recently launched their new toolkit, Supporting the Military Child, for school leaders around the world to gather effective strategies for supporting military children whose parents are deployed or in transition. The toolkit was made possible by a grant from the Veteran's Support Foundation.

With nearly 2 million children having had one or both parents deployed since 2001, this toolkit will be an excellent resource for educators and school leaders who work with military children to learn about available resources, activities, and best practices they can put into place in their classrooms to meet the unique educational needs of military children.

This free toolkit includes information on the following:

- 5 Things School Leaders Can Do To Build Connections
- 5 Things School Leaders Can Do To Offer Support
- 5 Things School Leaders Can Do To Promote Academics
- Fact Sheet on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Fact Sheet on the Military Child
- Organizations Supporting the Military Child's Needs
- Resources for Supporting the Military Child and More!!

The entire toolkit can be downloaded at: <http://www.aasa.org/MilitaryChild.aspx>



Professional Development Opportunity

Transition Counselor Institute™ Phase I

TRAINING FOR ALL EDUCATORS, SCHOOL COUNSELORS, ADMINISTRATORS, MILITARY AND COMMUNITY PERSONNEL WHO WORK WITH MILITARY CHILDREN!!

Please join the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic School Liaison Officers as we host the Military Child Education Coalition's Transition Counselor Institute™ (TCI™). This two-day professional development opportunity is the first in a series of three interactive professional institutes focusing on the military-connected child's experience with transitions.

TCI™ Phase 1 strives to create an environment for education, installation and community professionals to have access to professional networks, technologies, resources and support systems to help them stay abreast of the dynamic and diverse K-12 school experience that impacts the transitioning student. Military lifestyle and culture, school transition perspectives, identifying local transition challenges, and supporting children through trauma and loss are some of the modules addressed. The cost is FREE to all participants.

Host Base	Dates	Time	Location
NWS Yorktown	March 18-19	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Holiday Inn (Williamsburg)
NS Newport	March 22-23	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Newport Beach Hotel & Suites
NNSY	April 8 - 9	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	TBD
NS Norfolk/NSA	April 21-22	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	TBD
PNSY (Kittery, ME)	April 26-27	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Nonantum Resort
Naval Subase NLON	April 29-30	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	TBD
NAS Oceana	May 3 - 4	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	TBD
JEB West (Little Creek)	May 5 - 6	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	TBD

Who should attend the TCI? Elementary, Middle and High School Guidance Professionals, School Principals and installation representatives such as Commanding Officers, School Liaison Officers, Family Support Directors, and Relocation Specialists.

For additional information please contact your local school liaison officer. Pre-Registration is required for all attendees. Please register online: <https://gmhost1.gomembers.com/clients/t-mcec/etrakwebapp/meetings.aspx>

Get Involved in Your Child's Education

25 TIPS FROM OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION OMBUDSMAN

**School-family partnerships contribute to academic success in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
Become a partner with your child's school.**

Make home a learning center

1. Read with your child every day, in English or your native language. If you don't feel comfortable reading, discuss picture books or photos, or have your child read to you.
2. Make a regular time and space for homework every day. Turn the TV off.
3. Know what your child is studying. Learn new things yourself.
4. Make sure your child gets enough sleep each night and eats a good breakfast before school.
5. Involve your family in community activities that expand on school learning.
6. Let your child know that you expect good work in school.
14. If you have time, help the teacher in the classroom.
15. Recruit and train other families to form a volunteer group.
16. Help set up and manage a classroom phone tree or e-mail list.

Become a leader

17. Learn how the school system works and how to advocate for all children.
18. Be part of decision-making committees at school, organize a parent group in your school, or be active in your school's parent organization.
19. Take classes to develop your leadership skills.
20. Be a public supporter of education. Get informed about state and local education laws.

Communicate with the school

7. Inform the school of your child's needs and any changes in family circumstances.
8. Establish a communication system with your child's teacher and use it frequently.
9. Check your child's homework, attendance and academic progress often.
10. Respond to all messages from school.
11. Attend school meetings, events, and parent-teacher conferences.

Help bring the community into the school

21. Encourage your school to provide all families with information about community services and resources.
22. If your school is diverse, find out which community organizations serve diverse cultural groups and help the school connect with them to provide services for families.
23. Arrange educational and cultural experiences for your child. Share these opportunities with other families and your child's school.

Help the school

12. Work with teachers to find educational materials, enrichment programs for students, and funding.
13. If you can't volunteer at school during class time, ask the school for ways to help at home or on weekends.
24. Help the school recruit and train community volunteers and mentors from diverse groups.
25. Thank local merchants and business people who support education and schools.

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Exceptional Family Member Program: *What do I need to know?*

When you transfer to a new duty station, everyone in your family has to make adjustments. When someone in the family needs special educational or medical services, there are often added challenges. Learning as much as you can about the Exceptional Family Member Program will help get you started on the right foot toward a successful move.

What is the Exceptional Family Member Program?

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is designed to provide support to military families with special needs. The EFMP is a multidisciplinary assignment tool that interfaces with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, educational, community and personnel support to military families with special needs. Enrollment in the EFMP ensures consideration of the needs of family members in the detailing process.

Who is eligible for the EFM Program?

Family members of active duty personnel or Reservists called to active duty and PCSing with family members who meet the following criteria:

- Is enrolled in DEERS.
- Has been diagnosed with a chronic medical, mental health or educational condition for six months or longer that requires special services.
- Resides with the active duty sponsor.

If someone in your family qualifies for the program, you are required to enroll in the EFMP.

How does enrollment work?

It is important to start the enrollment process as soon as your family member is identified as eligible for the EFMP. The EFMP Coordinator at your Military Treatment Facility (MTF) will assist you with completing the necessary forms.

What forms am I required to complete?

At a minimum, you will be required to complete the EFMP application, DD Form 2792. The form must be signed by the service member or spouse and verified by an EFMP Coordinator. The sponsor must review all sections for accuracy and completeness. Note that a signed "Functional Medical Summary" must be included for all children with special educational needs, even when no medical condition is apparent. For family members with special educational needs, DD Form 2792-1 must also be obtained. This form must be completed and signed by a school official or early intervention provider, if the child is younger than three. A legible copy of the current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) must also be submitted. Upon completion of all enrollment forms, provide them to your MTF EFMP Coordinator. Remember, it is important to keep a copy of all forms for your records as well.

I am getting ready to transfer duty stations with my exceptional family member. What advice do you have?

Most U.S. military installations are located in areas where services can be provided and coordinated locally, but medical standards and the availability of services are not the same everywhere. For that reason, when you are assigned to a duty station outside of the U.S. (or in certain remote locations in the U.S.), all family

members will be screened for suitability prior to approval for accompanied travel. If your accompanying exceptional family member is enrolled in the EFMP, their needs will be considered early in the assignment process to ensure that medical and educational services are available. If their needs are only identified during the mandatory screening process, often the assignment will be delayed while their needs are coordinated with the gaining location. Whether you're transferring within the U.S. or overseas, moving your family to a new community is a big undertaking. It is important to begin gathering information about your new location as soon as you receive change-of-station orders. Researching the availability of services for your exceptional family member may seem like an insurmountable task. However, a good deal of information is available through your Fleet and Family Support Center or your installation MTF EFMP Coordinator, as well as online sources.

Here are a couple of additional thoughts for easing your transfer with your exceptional family member:

- Keep copies of your enrollee's educational records in a convenient location and make sure you hand carry the documents when you move. If you have a child in special education, it is especially important to keep her most recent IEP and most recent evaluation on hand.
- Keep your EFMP enrollment information current. Enrollees must be re-evaluated every three years or sooner, if there is a change in status.

The EFM Program is the avenue to a better quality of life for your exceptional family member and you. Contact your local Fleet and Family Support Program or MTF for more information.



Special Needs/EFMP

Post Secondary Corner

Resources for high school students



Who can help my child and I prepare to fund college expenses?

Getting ready for college may seem like a lot to handle, but students don't have to do it alone! Parents, teachers, counselors, coaches, and friendly folks from your community or place of worship are all good people to go to if you have questions. Think of them as your college support team.

Any adult with whom you have a connection is a good addition to your college support team. If they don't have the answers themselves, they may know where to look. Take action! Students should start discussing plans for college today with their family and with people at school. They will not know how to support and encouragement unless students let them in on their plans. Once everyone knows the plan, then everyone can work together to reach the students college goals.

How will I pay for college?

When it comes to college costs, remember...

- Some colleges cost less than other colleges.
- Lots of financial aid is available—there are more opportunities now than ever before!
- Students and their parents have time to start saving for college.

The bottom line is that if students want to go to college and are willing to work at it, then there are ways to find the money to pay for it. While it's very important that families to prepare financially for college (save, save, save!), don't forget—you don't have to pay for college all by yourself! The U.S. Department of Education has more than \$100 billion (yep that's \$100,000,000,000—with 11 zeros!) in financial aid for students who qualify.

Want an idea of how much of that \$100 billion you might be eligible for? Use FAFSA4casterSM to get an estimate (just an informal calculation) of how much financial aid you possibly could receive. Then, learn what types of aid are available.

About Federal Student Aid in General

The FSA Programs are the largest source of college financial assistance, each year providing billions of dollars in funding through a variety of methods: as gift aid in the form of grants (money that does not have to be repaid) and as self-help aid in the form of work study (job earnings) and loans (money that must be paid back at interest). The FSA programs comprise:

- Pell grants
- Academic Competitiveness grants (ACGs)
- National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) grants
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) grants
- Subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans, available either through the Direct Loan (DL) Program or the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program
- PLUS loans for parents and graduate/professional students (also available through the DL or FFEL programs)
- Consolidation loans (DL or FFEL)
- Federal Work Study (FWS)
- Perkins loans
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

The last three—FWS, Perkins loans, and FSEOG—are known collectively as the Campus-based Programs. Loans through the DL Program come directly from the U.S. government, while loans through the FFEL Program come from private lenders such as banks.

Our budget calculator will help you determine your expenses and estimate your total available income. You will need to consider all of your resources and the total cost of your education. The budget calculator lists most of the important expenses and resources: tuition, books, and scholarships, for example.

<http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/BudgetCalculator/budget.html>

2010 CPO SCHOLARSHIP NOW OPEN!

The Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund was established solely for the purpose of generating and distributing funds to provide educational opportunities for qualified family members of Chief Petty Officers. Candidates eligible for scholarship awards are spouses and children (natural born, adopted or stepchildren) of all Chief Petty Officers.

Candidates submitting scholarship applications must, in the year of submission of their scholarship application, be about to graduate or have graduated from an accredited high school, or equivalent educational institution or have successfully earned a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), and must intend to enter, or be currently enrolled in a community college, vocational college, or 4-year college/university to complete the curriculum prescribed in or to be graduated with an AA, AS, BA or BS degree.

The number of scholarship awards and the amounts to be disbursed yearly are determined by the financial status of the fund. The Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund is non-profit and dependent upon tax-deductible donations to support its educational "Gift of Knowledge".

For more information, requirements and application, visit <http://www.cposf.org/>

Advice Corner

For Military Families Coping With Stress...

Children may sometimes express themselves not in words, but in behavior. Each child may react to stress and sadness differently. Be aware of changes, and be sure to get counseling if it's needed. Some signs your child may need help handling things:

- acting out
- being extra clingy
- being withdrawn or overly active
- experiencing nightmares or sleeplessness
- losing developmental milestones (such as bathroom skills)

And if your child is anxious about going to school, know that this may actually reflect a fear of leaving home. You can discuss this with your child's teachers, social workers and other counselors, or seek the assistance of the counselors at your local base Fleet and Family Support Center.

There are several websites parents can go for assistance. Try PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO! PBS KIDS GO! site for tweens focuses on difficult issues relating to family life, friendships, weight and other topics. It's My Life's special sections on coping with anger and depression will be particularly helpful for tweens in military families who are dealing with homecomings and change.

QUOTE TO NOTE

"The President's budget continues and expands a commitment to provide a cradle-to-career education for all of America's children.... The budget will set the stage for ESEA reauthorization, but there is still much more work ahead. With a bipartisan group of members of Congress, our goal is to develop an accountability system built on greater transparency, new incentives and rewards, and a focus on turning-around persistently under-performing schools. The President and I know that we need to educate our way to a better economy. I am honored to be working with you to make it happen."

— Secretary of Education Arne Duncan (1/29/10), in a letter to ED Review subscribers.



School Liaison Officer Contact Information

Mid-Atlantic Regional SLO.....(757) 322-2679
Naval Station Norfolk/NSA SLO(757) 438-3315
NAS Oceana/Dam Neck SLO.....(757) 433-3976
JEB West (Little Creek) SLO(757) 462-4483
JEB East (Fort Story) SLO.....(757) 422-7101 ext. 238

NWS Yorktown SLO(757) 887-7757
Norfolk Naval Shipyard SLO.....(757) 438-3638
New London SUBASE SLO.....(860) 694-3772
PNSY/New Brunswick SLO(207) 438-2466
Naval Station Newport SLO.....(401) 841-7126

